Citizens Talking to Citizens

Ontario

Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform

L'Assemblée des citoyens sur la réforme électorale

Public Consultation Guide

Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform

Contact Information

Print copies of this document are available at ServiceOntario/Government Information Centres in more than 60 communities around the province. For the location closest to you, please visit **www.serviceontario.ca**.

Electronic copies are available in .pdf. Visit the Citizens' Assembly website at **www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca**.

Alternative-format copies are available on request at info@citizensassembly.gov.on.ca

Une publication équivalente est disponible en français au site web suivant : **www.assembleedescitoyens.gouv.on.ca**.

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Ontario has changed significantly since our first parliament was elected in 1792. Since that time the electoral system has never been publicly considered or evaluated. Some people think the current system has stood the test of time. Other people think it's time for a change. The Citizens' Assembly process gives all Ontarians an opportunity to learn more about Ontario's current electoral system, as well as others, and to decide which one they think is best for this province.

The Citizens' Assembly wants to hear what you think.

Voting is fundamental to democracy. The electoral system determines what choices we have at election time and how our individual votes are counted and translated into seats in the legislature. In other words, the electoral system affects who is elected to represent us and which parties form the government and opposition.

Electoral systems are based on principles or values, such as fair representation, voter choice, and stable government. This is the first time Ontario citizens have had the opportunity to discuss what we value in an electoral system and what system we believe best reflects these values.

The Citizens' Assembly must recommend to the government whether Ontario should keep its current electoral system or adopt a new one. If the Assembly recommends a change, the government will hold a referendum on our proposal before or as part of the next provincial election, which is scheduled for October 4, 2007. We invite you to get involved and add your voice to this important process.

A referendum will be held if the Citizens' Assembly recommends a new electoral system.

Get Involved

The Assembly would like to hear from as many Ontarians as possible: those who know a lot about electoral systems, and those who are just beginning to think or learn about the subject. The consultation period will run from late October 2006 to the end of January 2007. What you tell us will assist the Assembly when we discuss what to recommend to the government.

This guide will help you present your ideas to the Assembly, however you choose to participate. You can share your views with us by:

- Sending written comments by **January 15, 2007**, online, by mail, or by fax.
- Coming to a consultation meeting from **mid-November 2006 to late January 2007** and participating in the discussion.
- Making a presentation at a consultation meeting. To do this, you must first register online or by phone.

You'll find detailed information on how to participate starting on page 12.

This guide provides a brief introduction to the principles and characteristics of electoral systems and to various types of electoral systems. We encourage you to visit our website, www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca, or contact the Citizens' Assembly Secretariat for additional resources to help you learn about the strengths and weaknesses of various systems.

The Assembly has not yet reached any conclusions. We are open to hearing all points of view. The purpose of the consultation is for us to learn what's important to you.

Tell Us What You Think

The Citizens' Assembly is asking the public four questions.

Public Consultation Questions

1. *Which of the principles described on pages 4-6 are most important to you? Why?*
   - *Are there other principles you think are important? Why?*
2. *Does Ontario's current electoral system reflect the principles that are important to you? If yes, why? If no, why not?*
3. *Do you think Ontario should keep its current electoral system or change to a different one?*
   - *If you think Ontario should change to a different system, which one do you prefer? Why?*
   - *How does the system you prefer reflect the principles that are important to you?*
4. *Do you have any other comments or recommendations related to the Assembly's mandate?*

About the Citizens' Assembly

Our Mandate and Work

We are Ontario's first Citizens' Assembly. The Assembly was established by a regulation under Ontario's *Election Act* and is independent of government. Our mandate is to assess Ontario's electoral system and other systems and to recommend whether the province should keep its current system or adopt a different one.

We are doing our work in three phases:

1. **Learning Phase**—In the fall of 2006, the Assembly is spending six weekends learning about Ontario's electoral system and other systems. The Assembly's academic director, Dr. Jonathan Rose, associate professor of political science at Queen's University in Kingston, is leading this intensive learning program. Dr. Rose is presenting information about electoral systems in an impartial way and coordinating presentations from a wide range of experts on the subject.
2. **Consultation Phase**—From late October to January 15, 2007, we're inviting written comments from Ontario citizens. We're also holding consultation meetings across the province from mid-November 2006 to late January 2007 where people can make presentations and participate in discussions.
3. **Deliberation Phase**—Starting in February 2007, the Assembly will meet for another six weekends to discuss what we've learned and what we've heard in the consultation. Then we'll decide what to recommend to the government. Our report is due by May 15, 2007.

Citizens' Assembly Members

The Citizens' Assembly is made up of 104 Ontarians: 103 randomly selected citizens —one from each of the province's electoral districts—plus our Chair, George Thomson, who was appointed by the government. There are 52 men and 52 women in the Assembly. Many of us were born in Ontario or in other parts of Canada. About a third of us were born in other parts of the world. We have a wide range of occupations—teachers, information technology specialists, engineers, small business owners, healthcare workers, caregivers, students, and retirees, to name just a few. We're also diverse in age, background, education, and interests and in many other ways.

Our differences are important because they allow us to bring diverse perspectives to the work of the Assembly. But equally important is what we have in common. We are all voters. We all expressed interest in joining the Citizens' Assembly and were randomly selected from our electoral districts. We are all deeply committed to this process and to working together toward a common goal.

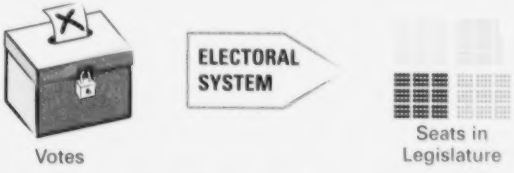
Our Chair, George Thomson, is an educator, former judge, and former deputy minister. He is facilitating the work of the Assembly and ensuring that we have the support we need to learn, consult, and deliberate effectively. He is leading the Assembly process, but he is not leading us toward a particular decision. Mr. Thomson doesn't have a vote in the Assembly unless one is needed to break a tie.

The Citizens' Assembly Secretariat is the staff team supporting the work of the Assembly. You'll find photos and short biographies of Assembly members, our Chair, our academic director, and staff on the Citizens' Assembly website. See page 15 for a list of members.

Electoral Systems

Introduction to Electoral Systems

The representatives of the people of Ontario, called members of provincial parliament (MPPs), hold seats in the legislature at Queen's Park. The electoral system determines how these seats are filled when the votes are counted at election time.



Many electoral systems are used around the world. Each works in a different way and produces different results. The Citizens' Assembly mandate is to assess Ontario's current electoral system and other systems. To do this, we can start by identifying a set of principles that we value, and then we can decide which system is most likely to reflect them. It's a bit like buying a car. Before you head to the dealership, you think about what features are most important to you: size, safety, fuel efficiency, cost, and so on.

The regulation that created the Citizens' Assembly directs the Assembly to consider eight principles and characteristics and any others it believes are important. These principles were recommended by the former Select Committee on Electoral Reform, established by the Ontario legislature in 2005 to study electoral systems. The committee was made up of MPPs from the Liberal, Progressive Conservative, and New Democratic parties.

The principles, in the order stated in the regulation, are:

- legitimacy
- fairness of representation
- voter choice
- effective parties
- stable and effective government
- effective parliament
- stronger voter participation
- accountability

The Citizens' Assembly has also identified two other features of an electoral system that should be considered. These are:

- simplicity and practicality

It would be difficult for any one electoral system to reflect all of these principles and characteristics fully or even to the same degree. Electoral system experts often say that choosing an electoral system involves trade-offs, or give and take, between a number of desirable principles and objectives. In other words, emphasizing one principle may mean de-emphasizing another one.

Electoral systems involve trade-offs, or give and take, between a number of desirable principles and objectives.

And as important as electoral systems are, there are limits to what any system, by itself, can accomplish. Many other factors, such as the quality of political leadership, the nomination process for candidates, and the rules of the legislature, influence how well the principles people value will be reflected.

Principles and Characteristics of Electoral Systems

What the regulation says about each principle is quoted below. Then there's a brief description of each principle's characteristics (taken from the former Select Committee's report and other sources).

Legitimacy

"The electoral system should have the confidence of Ontarians and reflect their values."

An electoral system must inspire confidence in both its process and its results. Even if voters are not happy with the outcome of an election, they can accept it as legitimate if the electoral system is based on principles that most people value. To use a sports analogy, when your team loses, it's easier to accept the result if you believe the rules of the game were fair.

Legitimacy is the result of a good electoral system. If a system reflects the remaining principles, it's likely to be seen as legitimate.

Fairness of Representation

"The Legislative Assembly should reflect the population of Ontario in accordance with demographic representation, proportionality and representation by population among other factors."

The Citizens' Assembly regulation states three ways to think about representation: demographic representation, proportionality, and representation by population.

Demographic representation means that the members of the legislature reflect the makeup of the province's population: for example, in terms of gender, age, and ethno-cultural identity.

Proportionality is achieved when the proportion or share of seats that a party wins is roughly equal to the proportion of votes that it receives in the election.

Representation by population requires that each vote carry equal weight in electing representatives to the legislature.

Voter Choice

"An electoral system should promote voter choice in terms of quantity and quality of options available to voters."

Quantity refers to the range of choices voters have on the ballot. In some electoral systems, voters choose only a candidate. In others, voters can vote directly for a political party. Some systems allow voters to make only one choice among candidates or parties; others allow or require voters to rank their preferences (first, second, third, etc.).

Quality of choice means that voters feel they have a meaningful choice to make on election day. They have the opportunity to select from among candidates or parties who represent genuinely different approaches to governing.

Effective Parties

"Political parties should be able to structure public debate, mobilize and engage the electorate, and develop policy alternatives."

Political parties play an essential role in democracies. They attract members who share similar beliefs and develop policies that reflect their goals and priorities. Parties also promote public debate on important issues. Whether you think parties are effective depends on what you think they should do and how you think they should do it.

Electoral systems affect the number of parties that are likely to win seats in the legislature. In some systems, only major parties tend to win seats. In others, small parties can obtain some representation. Some systems make it easier for parties to succeed if their support is distributed over the whole province or country. Others favour parties with support concentrated in a specific region.

Stable and Effective Government

"The electoral system should contribute to continuity of government, and governments should be able to develop and implement their agendas and take decisive action when required."

An effective government can manage the affairs of the province and carry out the policy platform that the party (or parties) set out during the election campaign. A government is also effective if it can make decisions and take action quickly when needed.

Different electoral systems tend to produce different kinds of governments. Canadians often associate stability with single-party majority governments, where one party has a majority (50% plus 1) of seats in the legislature. Other major democracies, such as France and Germany, have experience with stable coalition governments, where two or more parties govern together and usually have a majority of seats between them.

Effective Parliament

"The Legislative Assembly should include a government and opposition, and should be able to perform its parliamentary functions successfully."

The Legislative Assembly (Ontario's legislature) passes laws, authorizes spending, and debates many important public policy issues. An effective legislature has an effective government and an effective opposition. The opposition parties—those with seats in the legislature who aren't part of the government—must be able to watch the government closely and present alternatives to the government's positions.

Electoral systems are primarily responsible for determining how parties make up the legislature—which parties win seats and how many they win. This, in turn, can influence how the legislature functions.

Stronger Voter Participation

"Ontario's electoral system should promote voter participation as well as engagement with the broader democratic process."

People have many different reasons for voting or not voting. It's important to ask whether some of these reasons relate to how they feel about the electoral system and the way it translates their votes into seats. People may be more likely to vote, or to participate more generally in the political process, if they have confidence in the electoral system and believe their votes will make a difference.

Political parties can play an important role in getting people to vote. How well parties do this job may depend, in part, on what incentives the electoral system gives them. For example, in some systems, parties are motivated to campaign for every available vote. In other systems, parties tend to campaign strategically, focusing their efforts on the electoral districts they are most likely to win.

Accountability

"Ontario voters should be able to identify decision-makers and hold them to account."

Different electoral systems produce different types of governments. Governments can be made up of one party that is accountable for decisions or two or more parties that share accountability. A single-party majority or minority government has one party responsible for its decisions. A coalition government has two (or sometimes more) parties that make decisions together.

The lines of accountability are different depending on whether the electoral system allows voters to vote for a local candidate, a party, or both. Voters can try to hold governments accountable with their votes, but this is not always straightforward. For example, in electoral systems where voters choose a local candidate only, they may like a candidate but not his or her party. In systems where voters vote for a party, they may support the party but not the party's choice of candidates.

Simplicity, Practicality, and Other Principles

The Citizens' Assembly would like to know how important you think simplicity and practicality are in an electoral system. Please let us know if there are any other principles or characteristics you think we should consider.

Consultation Question 1

Which of the principles described on pages 4-6 are most important to you? Why? Are there other principles you think are important? Why?

Families of Electoral Systems

For the sake of simplicity, electoral systems can be divided into families or groups, based on features they have in common. This guide discusses four families and seven systems used in major democracies around the world.

Families	Systems
Plurality	• Single-Member Plurality (SMP)
Majority	• Alternative Vote (AV) • Two-Round System (TRS)
Proportional Representation (PR)	• List PR • Single Transferable Vote (STV)
Mixed	• Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) • Parallel Systems

All electoral systems have three basic elements:

- the number of representatives elected in each electoral district (riding)
- the electoral formula or rules for determining who wins the seat or seats
- the type of ballot.

This guide provides only basic information about electoral systems. Please visit our website, www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca, or contact the Citizens' Assembly Secretariat for more in-depth materials. See page 12 for descriptions of some of the resources available on our site.

Plurality Family: Single-Member Plurality

Used in Canada, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom, United States, and other countries.

Single-Member Plurality (SMP) is the system used in Ontario and all other Canadian provinces, and for elections to the federal parliament in Ottawa. The system is often called "First Past the Post" because it works a bit like a horse race. There is only one winner in each electoral district or riding, and the winner simply has to finish ahead of the other candidates.

Voters choose a single member to represent their electoral district. The ballot lists the names of all the candidates running in the district, and voters mark an X next to the candidate of their choice. In SMP, when you vote for a candidate, you're also voting for that candidate's political party.

Votes are counted in each district, and the candidate with the most votes is elected. The winner needs *more* votes than any other candidate (a plurality), but does *not* need a majority (50% plus 1) of the votes.

For example, in an election where 100 votes are cast, a majority would be 51 votes. If the Yellow candidate gets 40 votes, the Purple candidate gets 35, and the Grey candidate gets 25, no candidate has a majority. But the Yellow candidate wins the seat with a plurality because 40 votes are more than either of the others got.

In Ontario's current system, a candidate needs more votes than any other candidate to win—not a majority.

Supporters of the system like the fact that it often produces a single-party majority government. Where there are more parties able to win seats—as at the federal level in Canada—the likelihood of minority government increases. Coalition governments, where two parties govern together, are rare in this system.

In Single-Member Plurality, the number of seats a party has in the legislature reflects the number of electoral districts it has won, but not necessarily the share or proportion of votes it has received. For example, the table shows the difference between the percentage of votes the parties received and the percentage of seats they won in the 2003 Ontario election.

Ontario Legislative Assembly, 2003

Party	% of Votes	Number of Seats	% of Seats
Liberal	46.4	72	69.9
PC	34.6	24	23.3
NDP	14.7	7	6.8
Green	2.8	0	0
Other	1.5	0	0
TOTAL	**100.0**	**103**	**100.0**

PC = Progressive Conservative Party
NDP = New Democratic Party

It can be difficult for small or new parties to succeed under SMP. Parties that have strong regional support have an easier time because they're more likely to win in electoral districts where their support is concentrated. Small or new parties that appeal broadly to all voters may have a harder time winning in any one electoral district.

Consultation Question 2

Does Ontario's current electoral system reflect the principles that are important to you? If yes, why? If no, why not?

Majority Family: Alternative Vote and Two-Round System

Alternative Vote (AV) and the Two-Round System (TRS) are both majority electoral systems.

As in Ontario, in these two systems, each electoral district is represented by a single member. And the number of seats a party has in the legislature reflects the number of districts it has won. What's different, and what supporters of majority systems like, is that a candidate must get a majority of votes—50% plus 1—to win.

If there are only two candidates in the race, the winner will automatically receive a majority of votes. But usually there are more than two candidates on the ballot. The problem that majority systems must solve is how to ensure that one candidate receives a majority in a race that has more than two competitors. AV and TRS provide two different solutions.

Alternative Vote

Used in Australia, Fiji, and New Guinea (2007).

With Alternative Vote, voters indicate not only their favourite candidate—their first preference—but also a second choice, a third choice, and so on. When the first-preference votes are counted, if one candidate has a majority, he or she is elected and that's that.

If no candidate wins a majority, the last-place finisher—the candidate with the lowest number of first-preference votes—is eliminated. Now the voters' *alternative* choices come into play. The second-preference votes of those whose favourite candidate has been eliminated are distributed to the remaining candidates. This counting process continues until one candidate has a majority of the votes and is elected.

Alternative Vote tends to produce single-party or coalition majority governments. As with Ontario's Single-Member Plurality system, the election results aren't usually proportional—that is, the share of seats a party wins doesn't necessarily correspond to the share of votes it receives. With Alternative Vote, it can also be difficult for new parties to win seats.

Two-Round System

Used in Egypt, France, Mali, Togo, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and other countries.

Under the Two-Round System, the ballot typically looks like the one Ontarians are used to. Voters mark a single X next to the candidate of their choice. If no candidate wins a majority, a second round of voting takes place, usually a week or two later. The most common type of second round is a run-off contest between the two candidates who got the most votes in the first round, so that one candidate is sure to win a majority in the second round.

The Two-Round System typically produces single-party majority governments or coalition majority governments made up of parties with similar positions. The system can encourage bargaining between parties or candidates, as they work together to support the successful candidates from the first round in the lead-up to the second round. As with Alternative Vote, election results under TRS aren't necessarily proportional, and it can be difficult for new parties to win seats.

Proportional Representation (PR) Family: List PR and Single Transferable Vote

In proportional representation systems, voters usually vote for a party. Then each party's share of votes is translated into a corresponding share of seats in the legislature. For example, a party that wins 30% of the votes will receive approximately 30% of the seats. This is one of the features supporters like about the system.

In proportional representation systems, a party's share of seats is roughly equal to its share of votes.

Proportional representation requires electoral districts with more than one representative each. The number of representatives in each district varies greatly from country to country. In the Netherlands, the entire country is one electoral district and has 150 representatives. Sweden is probably more typical, with 29 multi-member districts averaging 11 members each. The greater the number of representatives to be elected from a district, the more proportional the election results are likely to be.

There are two major types of proportional representation systems: List PR and Single Transferable Vote (STV).

List PR

Used in Argentina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Greece, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and other countries.

Under a List PR system, each party presents a ballot with its candidates listed in the order in which it wants them to be elected. Parties can put their leaders or star candidates at the top of the list. They can also use the list to promote the election of women and minority groups.

Party lists can be closed, open, or free:

- **If the list is closed,** voters can't change anything on the list. The majority of List PR systems in the world use closed lists. Seats won by a party will be filled in order, starting at the top of the list.
- **If the list is open,** voters may change the order of the candidates that the party has provided.
- **If the list is free,** voters may vote for and rank any of the candidates, regardless of party. Switzerland's system is an example.

When the votes are counted, parties receive seats in proportion to their shares of the vote. Because the shares of party votes never come out as perfect whole numbers, systems use various mathematical formulas to smooth out the fractions and assign the seats proportionally.

In List PR systems, there's often a threshold, or a percentage of the overall vote, that a party must reach in order to qualify for a share of seats. These thresholds vary from country to country.

With List PR, single-party majority governments are rare and coalition governments are the norm. Proportional representation makes it easier for smaller parties to win seats and participate in government as part of a coalition.

Single Transferable Vote (STV)

Used in Australia (Federal Senate), Malta, and the Republic of Ireland.

Single Transferable Vote uses multi-member electoral districts, and voters rank the candidates in order of preference on the ballot (as in Alternative Vote), regardless of party. In STV, a party can have more than one candidate in the same race, in effect running against each other.

Single Transferable Vote establishes a quota, or a minimum number of votes, required to elect a candidate. Each race may take several rounds of counting to decide. First, any candidates who reach the quota on first-preference votes alone are elected. If these candidates have surplus votes—more votes than needed to meet the quota—then the next preferences on their ballots are counted and the surplus votes are transferred to other candidates.

Each time a count is made and no one reaches the quota, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and those ballots are transferred to voters' next preferences. This process continues until all seats in the district are filled.

Coalition governments are common in Ireland, and single-party majority governments are the norm in Malta. As with List PR, the greater the number of representatives to be elected from an electoral district, the greater the likelihood that Single Transferable Vote will produce proportional results.

Mixed Family: Mixed Member Proportional and Parallel Systems

Mixed systems combine features of two families: the single-member electoral districts of plurality or majority systems, and the proportionality of proportional representation. This combination of local and proportional representation is one of the reasons supporters like it. Mixed systems usually allow voters to mark two preferences—one for a local candidate and one for a political party.

Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)

Used in Bolivia, Germany, Lesotho, Mexico, New Zealand, Venezuela, and other countries.

In Mixed Member Proportional, each party's share of the vote determines the share of seats it will have in the legislature. A party fills its allotment of seats first with the local candidates who were elected. Depending on the country, local candidates need either a plurality (the most votes) or a majority (50% plus 1) to win. Then, if the party still has seats to fill to get its proportional share, they are filled with candidates from its party list. Each party provides a list of its candidates in the order in which it wants them to be elected.

The party seats are sometimes referred to as "adjustment" seats, because they're used to adjust for any disproportional results produced by the elections of local candidates. For example, if a party wins 20% of the party vote but only 10% of the local seats, it will be allocated enough adjustment seats to bring its total representation in the legislature up to 20%.

The proportion of seats set aside as adjustment seats varies from country to country. For example, in Germany, half the seats are filled by local candidates and half are adjustment seats, filled from regional party lists. The greater the percentage of adjustment seats, the more proportional the election results can be.

As with List PR, results under Mixed Member Proportional tend to be proportional and coalition governments are the norm. Most MMP systems also have a threshold of support that a party must reach in order to receive adjustment seats.

Parallel Systems

Used in Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, South Korea, and other countries.

In many ways the mechanics of Parallel systems are similar to those of Mixed Member Proportional systems. Like MMP systems, Parallel systems usually allow voters to vote for a local candidate using a plurality or majority formula and to vote for a party through a List PR system.

In Parallel systems, two simultaneous but separate elections are held. In contrast to MMP, there is no relationship between the two votes, and parties aren't compensated for disproportional results by the use of adjustment seats. Despite this, the party list election may allow parties that don't win local seats to gain some representation in the legislature.

Single-party majority governments may be more likely under Parallel systems than under Mixed Member Proportional systems.

Consultation Question 3

Do you think Ontario should keep its current electoral system or change to a different one? If you think Ontario should change to a different system, which one do you prefer? Why? How does the system you prefer reflect the principles that are important to you?

More Information on Electoral Systems

Visit the Citizens' Assembly website, www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca, to find out more about electoral systems and see what the Assembly is learning. Here are some examples of the range of materials, from introductory to advanced, that you will find on our website in "The Classroom."

- **"Principles and Characteristics of Electoral Systems"**—An introduction to the eight principles and characteristics in the regulation that created the Citizens' Assembly.
- **"Billy Ballot"**—An animated trip around the world that gives you an overview of how different electoral systems work.
- **"From Votes to Seats: Four Families of Electoral Systems"**—A five-part booklet with glossary that provides more in-depth information about electoral systems and measures systems against the eight principles and characteristics.
- ***Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook***—A comprehensive look at how different electoral systems work and the advantages and disadvantages of each. This is one of the textbooks the Citizens' Assembly is using.
- **Annotated Bibliography**—Suggestions for further reading, divided into introductory, intermediate, and advanced materials.

How to Participate

There are several ways to share your views with the Citizens' Assembly:

- Send us **written comments** online, by mail, or by fax.
- **Come out to a consultation meeting** and join the discussion.
- Register online or by phone to **make a presentation** at a consultation meeting.

You can make a presentation *and* send written comments if you wish. If you send your comments in writing, they will be shared with the Assembly and posted on our website for the public to read. The presentations at each consultation meeting will be summarized as a group, not individually.

See "Contact Information" on page 14 for how to reach us.

Written Comments

You are invited to send written comments to the Assembly until January 15, 2007. This deadline will give us time to review and consider your contributions before we begin our Deliberation Phase in February. However, we encourage you to send your comments as early as you can, especially if they are lengthy.

The deadline for written comments is January 15, 2007.

You may send your comments to us online, by mail, or by fax. Electronic contributions may be made by typing comments directly on our website or by

attaching a document in Word, PowerPoint, Excel, PDF or other formats. You may write as little or as much as you wish. Please use the consultation questions on page 2 as a guide when writing your comments.

Each Assembly member will try to read as many of your comments as possible. To help us, Citizens' Assembly Secretariat staff will read all of *every* contribution and prepare a summary of each one. These summaries will be shared with the Assembly and posted on our website. The full texts of comments will also be posted on the website and available through a searchable database. Documents received by mail or by fax will be scanned and posted on the website.

Consultation Meetings

The Citizens' Assembly is holding 37 consultation meetings from mid-November 2006 to late January 2007. See page 16 for the dates and locations of meetings.

You can attend any consultation meeting and participate in the discussion. You do not need to register first, unless you wish to make a presentation (see below).

Please let the Secretariat know at least two weeks in advance if you are planning to attend a meeting that is not identified as "French" or "bilingual" and you require **French language services**.

If you require arrangements to **accommodate a disability**, please give the Secretariat three weeks' notice.

Please come to a consultation meeting even if you don't wish to make a presentation. The meetings are an opportunity to learn more about electoral systems, ask questions, and participate in a discussion with Assembly members and fellow citizens.

Presentations

You must pre-register online or by phone to make a presentation at a consultation meeting. Each meeting will accommodate up to 10 presenters for 10 minutes each. You may sign up only once, so that as many people as possible have the opportunity to share their views.

Requests to make presentations will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis. Once the available spaces are filled, people will be able to put their names on a waiting list. If some meetings fill up and others don't, the Citizens' Assembly Secretariat will ask people on the waiting list whether they would like to make a presentation at another meeting nearby.

The Assembly has the option to schedule additional meetings, but may not have the time to hear everyone who wishes to present. People on the waiting list will be invited to send in written comments.

The Citizens' Assembly Secretariat will prepare a general summary of key themes from each meeting, which will be shared with the Assembly and posted on our website. Presentations will also be videotaped. But if you wish the full text of your presentation to be available to the Assembly and to the public, please send it to us in writing as well.

Making the Most of Your Presentation Time

Each presenter will be given 10 minutes to speak. Here are some suggestions to help you make the most of this time:

- Please use about 5 to 7 minutes to make your comments and leave 3 to 5 minutes for questions from Assembly members or members of the public.

The meeting facilitator will let presenters know when they've reached the 5-minute point.

- Please begin your presentation with a summary of your key points and recommendations and then expand on them. That way, you'll be sure to get your message across.
- Please use the four consultation questions on page 2 to guide you as you prepare your comments. This will help ensure that your presentation covers the two main topics of the consultation—desirable principles and types of electoral systems—and focuses on issues that are within the Assembly's mandate.

In order to maximize the time available for presentations, please do not use audio-visual equipment.

Contact Information

Send in your written comments or register to make a presentation at a consultation meeting through the Citizens' Assembly website at www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca.

If you don't have Internet access, **write** to us at:

Citizens' Assembly Secretariat
1075 Bay Street
Suite 830
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 2B1

Send a **fax** to: 416-325-8390

Or **call:**

Tel. 416-325-0758

Toll free 1-866-317-3208

TTY: 416-325-6440 or 1-866-733-9751

We look forward to hearing your views and talking to you—citizens to citizens.

Thank you from the Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.

Members of the Ontario Citizens' Assembly

Chair	George Thomson	Nickel Belt	Richard Bowdidge
Algoma-Manitoulin	Donald Brickett	Nipissing	Roland Gibeau
Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Aldershot	Jeff Witt	Northumberland	Wendy Lawrence
Barrie-Simcoe-Bradford	Karl Cadera	Oak Ridges	Pat Miller
Beaches-East York	Catherine Baquero	Oakville	Laura Wells
Bramalea-Gore-Malton-Springdale	Theresa Vella	Oshawa	Nancy Collins
Brampton Centre	Joyce Hughes	Ottawa Centre	Tara Currie
Brampton West-Mississauga	Mappanar Sundrelingam	Ottawa South	John Townesend
Brant	Leana Swanson	Ottawa West-Nepean	Carl Berger
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound	Arita Droog	Ottawa-Orléans	Thomas Taylor
Burlington	Sandra Richter	Ottawa-Vanier	Chris Doody
Cambridge	Jerrold Labrecque	Oxford	Margaret Messenger
Chatham-Kent Essex	Jean Thompson	Parkdale-High Park	Andrea Kirkham
Davenport	Jon Bridgman	Parry Sound-Muskoka	Jordan Elliott
Don Valley East	Olivera Bakic	Perth-Middlesex	Lynda Dill
Don Valley West	Taylor Gilbert	Peterborough	Ann Thomas
Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey	Matthew L.O. Certosimo	Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge	Raj Roopansingh
Durham	Margo Bath	Prince Edward-Hastings	Cornelio Reyes
Eglinton-Lawrence	Laura Antonio	Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke	Maureen Grace
Elgin-Middlesex-London	Darcie Beckley	Sarnia-Lambton	Jim Passingham
Erie-Lincoln	John Toll	Sault Ste. Marie	David Viitala
Essex	Tamara Fick	Scarborough Centre	Donna Tichonchuk
Etobicoke Centre	Melinda Selmys	Scarborough East	Monica Wappel
Etobicoke North	Zaya Yonan	Scarborough Southwest	Elton Pinto
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Tom Engelhart	Scarborough-Agincourt	Catherine Shum
Glengarry-Prescott-Russell	Roxanne Taillon	Scarborough-Rouge River	Al Joseph
Guelph-Wellington	Elsayed Abdelaal	Simcoe North	Georgette Amadio
Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant	Jon Kristman	Simcoe-Grey	Elaine Pommer
Haliburton-Victoria-Brock	Marie McLaren	St. Catharines	Ron Green
Halton	John Daley	St. Paul's	Rick Smith
Hamilton East	Rose Arsenault	Stoney Creek	Sue Tiley
Hamilton Mountain	Jennie Stakich	Stormont-Dundas-Charlottenburgh	David Proulx
Hamilton West	Frank O'Grady	Sudbury	Christine Robert
Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington	Dianne Carey	Thornhill	Paul Litowitz
Huron-Bruce	Scott Allen	Thunder Bay-Atikokan	Nuala Wieckowski
Kenora-Rainy River	Julia Craner	Thunder Bay-Superior North	Pam Patterson
Kingston and the Islands	Buddhadeb Chakrabarty	Timiskaming-Cochrane	Hal Willis
Kitchener Centre	Marcia Soeda	Timmins-James Bay	Lise Breton
Kitchener-Waterloo	Ron VanKoughnett	Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Mayte Darraidou
Lambton-Kent-Middlesex	Peter Soroka	Toronto-Danforth	Ekaterini Traikos
Lanark-Carleton	Bruno Steinke	Trinity-Spadina	Garth Nichols
Leeds-Grenville	Fran Byers	Vaughan-King-Aurora	John Reston
London North Centre	Catarina Fernandes	Waterloo-Wellington	Bill Ritz
London West	George Dennis	Whitby-Ajax	Ted Savelle
London-Fanshawe	Linda Barnum	Willowdale	Bryan Byong-kuon Kim
Markham	Andreo Cornacchia	Windsor West	Marisa Squizzato
Mississauga Centre	Salma Aziz	Windsor-St.Clair	Mary Jane McMullen
Mississauga East	Carolyn Agasild	York Centre	Tom Ricci
Mississauga South	Ellen Chan	York North	Edmund James
Mississauga West	Patrick Heenan	York South-Weston	William Kwegyir-Aggrey
Nepean-Carleton	Peter Warren	York West	Nathan Duru-Obisi
Niagara Centre	Stephanie Jones		
Niagara Falls	Salvación Villamil		

Consultation Meetings

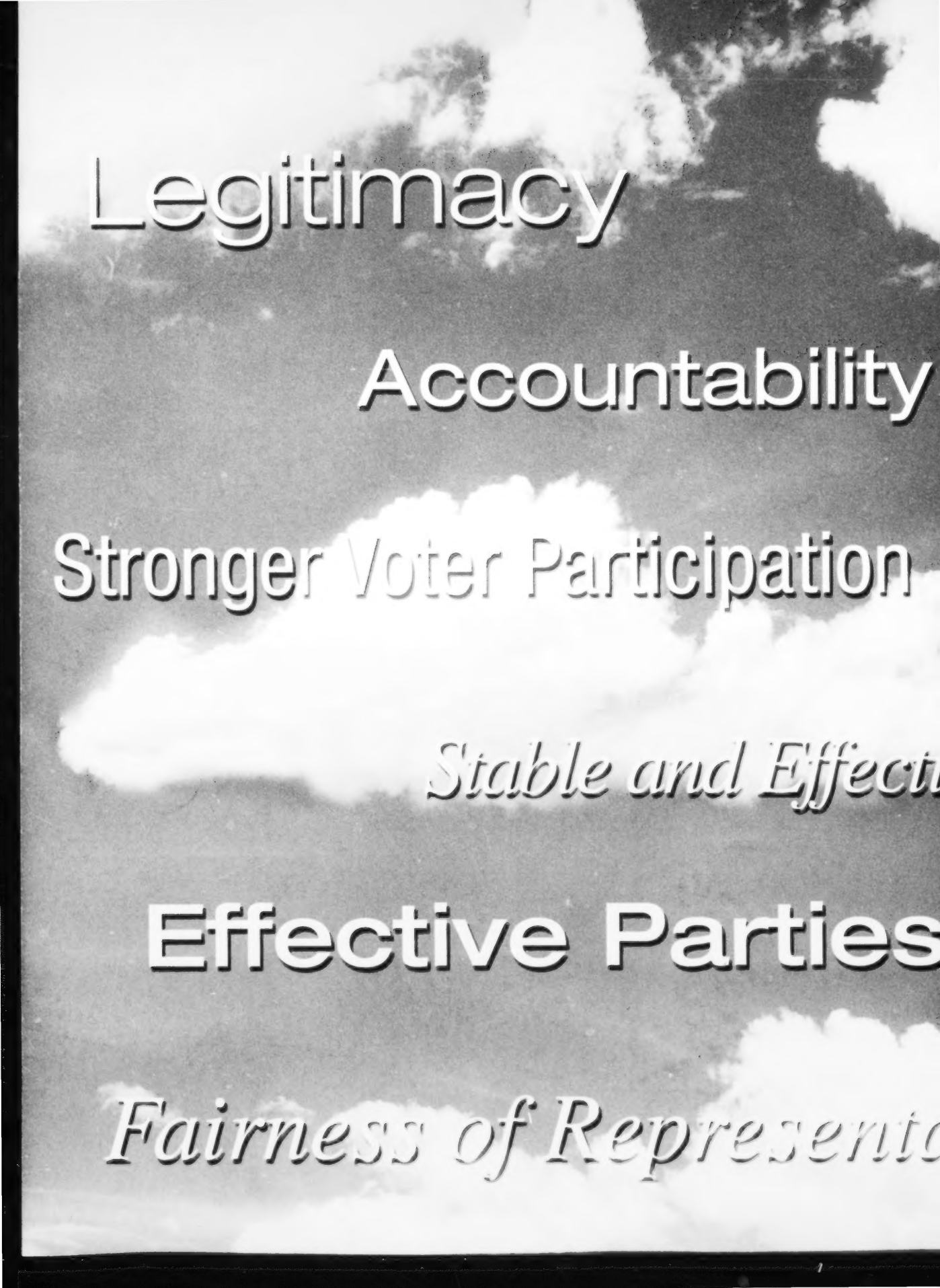
	November
Brampton	Monday, November 20, 2006
Oshawa	Tuesday, November 21, 2006
Mississauga	Tuesday, November 21, 2006
Oakville	Wednesday, November 22, 2006
Dryden	Monday, November 27, 2006
Timmins (bilingual meeting)	Monday, November 27, 2006
Thunder Bay	Tuesday, November 28, 2006
North Bay	Tuesday, November 28, 2006
Sault Ste. Marie	Wednesday, November 29, 2006
Sudbury (bilingual meeting)	Wednesday, November 29, 2006
St. Catharines	Thursday, November 30, 2006
	December
Owen Sound	Monday, December 4, 2006
Markham	Monday, December 4, 2006
Peterborough	Tuesday, December 5, 2006
Hamilton	Wednesday, December 6, 2006
Orangeville	Wednesday, December 6, 2006
Barrie	Thursday, December 7, 2006
Toronto East	Thursday, December 7, 2006
	January
Toronto Central (bilingual meeting)	Monday, January 8, 2007
Toronto West	Monday, January 8, 2007
Windsor (bilingual meeting)	Tuesday, January 9, 2007
London	Tuesday, January 9, 2007
Sarnia	Wednesday, January 10, 2007
Kitchener/Waterloo	Wednesday, January 10, 2007
London	Thursday, January 11, 2007
Ottawa (French-only meeting)	Thursday, January 11, 2007
Cornwall (bilingual meeting)	Monday, January 15, 2007
Belleville	Monday, January 15, 2007
Ottawa (bilingual meeting)	Tuesday, January 16, 2007
Kingston	Tuesday, January 16, 2007
Ottawa	Wednesday, January 17, 2007
Bracebridge	Thursday, January 18, 2007
Burlington	Thursday, January 18, 2007
Niagara Falls (bilingual meeting)	Monday, January 22, 2006
Toronto West	Tuesday, January 23, 2007
Kenora	Tuesday, January 23, 2007
Toronto Central	Thursday, January 25, 2006

All meetings are from 7:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. Visit the Citizens' Assembly website, www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca, or contact the Citizens' Assembly Secretariat for venues.

If you send written comments or make a presentation to the Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform as part of the public consultation process, please note:

- If you send written comments, the Citizens' Assembly Secretariat will prepare a brief summary of your comments, which will be posted on the website along with the full text of your comments. Oral presentations will not be transcribed or summarized individually; however, they will be videotaped, and the video footage will be posted on the website. In addition, a general summary of key themes from each consultation meeting will be prepared and posted on the website.
- Your name will become part of the public record and will be posted on the Citizens' Assembly website. The information you provide may be used for research and statistical purposes. If so, individuals will not be identified.
- You may be contacted by the Citizens' Assembly Secretariat for further information in connection with your comments or presentation.
- Upon completion of the Citizens' Assembly project, records will be transferred to the Archives of Ontario, and information may continue to be available through the website.
- The information collected from you is needed to fulfill the requirement for the Assembly to consult and submit a report to the Government of Ontario in accordance with Ontario Regulation 82/06 available at **http://www.e laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Regs/English/060082_e.htm**.

For further information about our information collection practices, please contact the Citizens' Assembly Secretariat.


Legitimacy
Accountability
Stronger Voter Participation
Stable and Effecti
Effective Parties
Fairness of Represento